

**State Advisory Committee (SAC) For Children with Disabilities**

**Advising the NH Department of Education per RSA 186-C:3-b**

**Minutes for the SAC Annual Retreat – September 12, 2012 – 9:00 am to 2:30 pm**

*New Hampshire Higher Education Assistance Foundation (NHHEAF), 4 Barrel Court, Concord, NH*

**Attending:** Bonnie Dunham, Chair; Raymond Dailey; Kerri Lynn Kimner; Kestrel Cole-McCrea; Audrey Burke; Candace Cole-McCrea; Michelle Rosado; Janet Reed; Donna Curtin; Karen Hatch; Jenifer Evans; Adrienne Evans; Eileen Liponis; Ellen Boudreau; Maureen Tracey; Catherine Meister; Sue Marcotte-Jenkins; Mike Pinard

**Absent:** Renea Sparks, Lynda Thistle-Elliot; Richard Cohen; Sarah Cooley; Colleen Ellis; Susan Frenette; Ross Cunningham; Gilbert Oriol; Linda Hunt; Joan Holleran; Kim Carpinone; Daniel Tanguay; Stacey Dailey; Cheryl Paquette; Rep. Jeffrey St. Cyr; Rep. Kathleen Lauer-Rego; Sen. Nancy Stiles; Sen. Molly Kelley

**Guests:** Santina Thibedeau

**Agenda Item I: *Welcome, Introductions (activity), Overview of the Day***

- Meeting began at 9:15 am (there was a delay because the meeting was held in a new location)

**Agenda Item II: *Approval of June's Minutes, Correspondence, Announcements, Public Comment***

- Approval of June's Minutes – After voting to accept changes noted by Kestrel Cole-McCrea and Sue Marcotte-Jenkins, Kerri Lynn Kimner made a motion to approve the June minutes, second by Candace Cole-McCrea. Motion passed unanimously.
- Announcements –
  - Bonnie announced that Renea Sparks is the new Vice Chair and explained that historically if a parent was the Chair, an educator was selected as Vice Chair and if an educator was Chair, a parent was Vice Chair. Ray Dailey is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair and has agreed to take the lead on encouraging Public and Parental Involvement
  - Bonnie informed the group that we received a resignation letter from Bob Blodgett and that Renea Sparks would be absent from today's meeting; Ray informed the group that Stacey would be unable to attend today's meeting.
  - Maureen announced that there are a few slots open in the IOD's Leadership program.
  - Janet Reed inquired who should be informed if a member will be absent. Bonnie recommended that people call Terry Stafford or the Bureau's main number (271-3741)
  - Maureen spoke about a NH student with disabilities who presented at a Washington, DC conference regarding "Hidden Disabilities" and who will also be presenting in Puerto Rico.
- Public comment –
  - Candace announced that Kestrel has advanced to Flight Commander with the Civil Air Patrol. Congratulations Kestrel!
  - Group discussed "Hidden Disabilities"
  - Eileen spoke of problems regarding children with disabilities in Charter Schools (i.e. parents being talked out of having an IEP for their child, etc.). The group made several suggestions, including giving teachers at Charter Schools some talking points or training (Candace suggested PIC as a resource). Santina explained the status of Charter Schools (they are public schools) and that the district where a child with disabilities resides is responsible for providing / arranging for the child's special education services (SB 300).

**Agenda Item III: *The schedule for the 2012-2013 year was distributed***

**Agenda Item IV: *Norm Setting Activity:***

- The group brainstormed some norms for SAC; Bonnie suggested that they consider what has and has not worked in the past and ways that all members can contribute
  - The group agreed that Bonnie would send everyone the list generated at this meeting and that we would finish the discussion at the October meeting.

#### **Agenda Item V: “State of the State” –**

- Santina Thibedeau gave a Bureau report:
  - Santina explained “sequestration” and how it would impact special education in NH (it will mean across the board cuts by 8%); she informed the group that Congress should make further decisions about sequestration soon.
  - She also gave an overview of the State Performance Plan (SPP) and the Annual Performance Report (APR), explaining each indicator and how NH is currently performing for each.
  - There was discussion on data-driven accountability, transitions (there is a grant through Keene State College that will have a portal for all to use).
  - Santina discussed changes to the State Assessments. “Smarter Balance” – creating a state assessment by 2015 that is computer based. Bandwidth is a big issue for schools. Some of the key discussion points related to the new assessment:
    - Test adjusts – shows growth.
    - Accessibility will be looked into – readability. Will need to reset baselines.
    - Alt: Learning progression. Video-taped now.
  - Santina Thibedeau gave a brief overview of the State’s waiver for the No Child Left Behind Act.
    - If approved, there will no longer be “Schools in need of Improvement” (SINI) or Districts in need of Improvement (DINI), instead there will be targeted assistance.
    - Reorganized TA: Teacher Effectiveness pilot through SIG.

#### **Agenda Item VI: Review / Report from Last Year’s Subcommittees**

- Each subcommittee from last year (Public Relations/Relationships, Membership, Legislation, CHINS, Liaison to the ICC, Liaison to the Indicator 8 Workgroup was given the opportunity to report out. Because key members were absent, there was only a partial report from the CHINS subcommittee

#### **Lunch / Networking**

#### **Agenda Item VI: Introduction and Discussion of Potential Priority Topics**

- Bonnie gave a review of the areas of concern identified during the past year by SAC members
- Additional focus areas were identified by the group as potential priorities (list has been e-mailed to SAC members). It was requested that members be provided with the report from Data Driven Enterprises (the DDE report has been e-mailed to SAC members) to aid them in making decisions about priorities. The group agreed to that each member would review the DDE Report, along with the list of potential priorities for this year and be prepared to vote on the top 3 priorities for this year at the September SAC meeting. At the September meeting, members will also select a priority-based subcommittee on which to serve, and then meet briefly to plan/strategize how they plan to address their priority topic.

#### **Agenda Item VII: New Business, Old Business, Public Comment**

- Maureen suggested that SAC should have a “logo”. Candace and Maureen recommended that Kestrel create something. Kestrel agreed to bring some ideas he has for a SAC logo to the next meeting.
- There was no public comment
- Based on a request from Eileen, a discussion on the issue of charter schools and children with disabilities will be scheduled for the September or October meeting.

#### **Agenda Item VII: Adjournment**

- Candace Cole-McCrea made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Kestrel Cole-McCrea seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

**Membership Update from Bonnie** – Marie Primeau has contacted Bonnie regarding serving on SAC. Marie has worked as a direct care provider for a man with disabilities in the Keene area since 1983. Marie has experience in multiple disabilities, especially chromosome differences and Autism, and currently also works as an Autism specialist home visitor for Rise for Baby and Family (for the past 6 years). Before that, Marie worked as an Early Education teacher and was a teacher at Crotched Mt.-